



Montgomery County Council

From the Office of Councilmember Phil Andrews

For Immediate Release

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ANDREWS TO INTRODUCE BILL REQUIRING FIRE INSPECTIONS AT COUNTY SCHOOLS

Montgomery County Councilmember Phil Andrews announced today that he will introduce emergency legislation next Tuesday to require fire inspections at least annually at all county schools, both private and public. The legislation also would require that fire code violations be corrected in a timely manner. Andrews chairs the Council's Public Safety Committee.

Richard Montgomery High School recently was cited by the Rockville City Fire Marshall for several fire code violations. The violations included non-working fire doors in hallways, and windows in classrooms that are painted or rusted shut. The high school had not been inspected for fire code violations since 1998. Andrews described the situation as "completely unacceptable" and called upon the school system to address the fire code violations "immediately."

Andrews said current county law that requires fire code inspections "as often as necessary" needs to be amended to require that inspections be done at least once a year. "The first responsibility of government is to provide public safety," said Andrews. "Students and their parents, teachers, and school support employees should not have to worry about whether their school complies with the county's fire code. Requiring fire code inspections at least annually will prevent what happened at Richard Montgomery High School from occurring again."

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